Attention everyone! **Inspector Drake** is now on film

- see page 2



Carers poised for a big night out

- and it's free

- see page 4



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### Landowner loses mobile building fight



The mobile building at the centre of the row

ASTOURTON farmer claims he is be taken down after government being victimised in a row over inspectors labelled it a blot on the planning permission which he says threatens to damage his busing. We farm size 1979 applied for writeness will struggle with no room.

We Bannister, who has owned the fore size 1979 applied for writeness will struggle with no room.

planning permission which he says threatens to damage his business.

Roger Bannister, owner of Prestwood Farm, has been ordered by South Staffordshire Council to knock down a mobile home he erected nearly 10 years ago.

He says the building, which was being used as a day room by horse riders, has been a "lifeline" to workers at his stables during the cold weather.

Now he is thinking of selling it to travellers to rebuild elsewhere but said he hoped a "compromise" could be reached. The 13ft high structure has to in going on here.

"We had permission in 2001 to travellers to rebuild elsewhere but wood carvans with this mobile home and it has been used as a day room since."

### Anger over single-lane bridge plan

PLANS to reduce a busy rail bridge in Stourbridge to single lane traffic will bring already-congested roads to a stand-

brill, angry residents claim.

Dudley Council wants to make the changes to save wear and tear on the bridge, in Vicarage Road, Amblecote. A traffic island is also to be demolished as part of

At tank is and it is also to be demonstred as part of the work and replaced with lights—which it is feared will add to the chaos. Residents in Vicarage Road, Kirkstone Way and Hillgrounds Road are fuming and say they were not told of the plan.

They fear it will lead to

tailbacks outside their homes throughout the

And councillors said they had been left "totally humiliated" because council officers failed to consult them.

They are demanding work is put on hold until a consultation has been carried out.

Work was due to begin next week but talks are going on between coun-cillors and officers.

It is feared the traffic lights for the bridge and those replacing the island will cause tailbacks to the A491 junction, near Holy Trinity Church.

At a meeting of Steam

Church.

At a meeting of Stourbridge Area Committee on Monday Councillor Pat Martin, ward member for Amblecote, said: "Councillors only found out this was taking place when a member of the public came up and asked if it was right.

#### **Nothing**

"We could tell them nothing. We were totally humiliated.
"Why was something so important not discussed with the residents and ourselves?

and ourselves?
"The fact these traffic lights will stop two-way traffic in and out of Vicarage Road will make a bad situation worse.
"At normal rush hours it is chaotic on the route," added Councillor Martin. Fellow Amblecote

Fellow Amblecote councillor Liz Walker said: "The lack of consulting."

said: "The lack of consultation was appalling."
Dudley Council highways officer Peter
Vangeersdale said officers were now working
with councillors to see
how the project could
proceed.

# MARKET DROP

FARMERS' sad" the market had folded and tinue the operation in Stour-was eager to hear from other bridge.

bridge has folThe market was first launched fighting a losing battle, "added Mr in the acetyle 2008; and was once."

Dean, Dean, Dean, The market was first launched fighting a losing battle, "added Mr in the acetyle 2008; and was once." Ibridge has folded after more than a the early 2000s and was operated for six years by LSD Promoseven years because of dwindling stall num
Sketts & Co.

Originally it also ran down Wish

dwindling stall numbers and concerns over its site.

Sketts & Co, which has run the market in Stourbridge since 2009, confirmed the monthly event was no longer "commercially viable" to continue. The number of stalls has fallen from more than 80 when it was first launched to just eight in recent months.

LOCATION

The falling numbers of traders over the past year has been cited as the main reason for closure. But the organisers also blamed the market's location in Coventry Street as a contributing problem, saying the street was not busy enough to boost trade.

Dudley Councilsaid it was "very"

Sketts & Co.

Originally it also ran down Market Street and Lower High Street and at its height had more than 80 stalls. LSD bosses pulled out, claiming the market tould not expand in the location and also pointed to the market was not busy eight at the enearby Crown. Centre was redeveloped. When the market was lead to the end of last year. But bosses from Sketts said the gight at the end of last year. But bosses from Sketts said the roposed Crown Centre work had not been a factor in their decision to end the market.

Manager Russell Dean said: "It is a great shame the market has ended after so many years in the town centre. "Obviously we want to hear of stalls has dropped off in an incredibly short Street as a contributing problem, as decision on whether to agree to romany open and the founcil offer a better location. "It is a case of never say never. We would be willing to talk to the founcil offer a better location. "It is a case of never say never. We would oben when the turn but only if the council offer a better location. "It is a case of never say never. We would be will offer a charge in the future but only if the council offer a better location. "It is a case of never say never. We would be will offer the would offer a better location. "It is a case of never say never. The future but only if the council offer a better location. "It is a case of never say never. We would be will offer the ouncil offer a better loca

"Part of the problem was the location. Coventry Street is not part of the town centre with a high

part of the town centre with a high footfall and this would obviously have been of benefit."

Mr Dean said they would con-sider returning to Stourbridge in the future – but only if the council could offer a better location.

#### Loved ones are honoured



Esther Turner, 15, with pupils from Peters Hill Primary at the service

MORE than 600 people paid respects to loved ones at a service run by Stour-bridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

The Tree of Light service was post-poned on December 5 due to freezing conditions but people crowded into St Mary's Parish Church, Church Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, for the re-

arranged service on Saturday night. arranged service on Saturday night.
Pupils from Peters Hill Primary
School choir sang three hymns and 15year-old Esther Turner of Leasowes
Community Colleged Halesowen, performed I Have a Dream.
The West Midlands Police Pipe
Band performed Amazing Grace.

#### Search now on for Mini

THE ORGANISER of a special Mini event is looking to track down the Stourbridge owner of a 1960 model to complete the display. Former Longbridge worker and Mini enthusiast Keith Woodfield is assembling a trio of exhibition cars from the first three years of production: 1959 to 1961.

The display is due to form one of the centrepieces of Classic Transport Day at Kidderminster Severn Valley Railway station at

Kidderminster Severn Valley Railway station at the start of the half-term holiday on February 19. Droit wich -based Keith, aged 77, owns a car dating from 1959 and has organised the 1961 vehicle too. Now he is looking to contact former alectricians, from an alectricians, from an

looking to contact former electricians' foreman Tony Haywood, who owns a blue 1960 Mini, and lives in the Stourbridge area.

Thave attended shows with Tony in the past but have lost contact," Keith said. "All three of us used to work at Longbridge and we have 120 years' service between us."

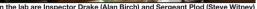
Anyone who can help him should call 01905 771870.

#### Mast decision

A DECISION is due from the Planning Inspec-torate this week on plans for a phone mast near Kingsway and Kent Road, Wollaston, against which more than 300 people have protested.

#### thechronicle







scientist Jack Savage (Rob Phillips)



The band Groucott and Haynes – Rob Groucutt on piano, Carrie Pickering on sax, Steve Groucutt on drums and Dan Haynes on guitar

### **Drake in the swim** with a switch to the big screen

A PLAYWRIGHT from Kidderminster

be showcased at the Tambourine Mountain Theatre on the Gold Coast of Queensland, Australia, and The New Plymouth Little Theatre, in New Zealand.

The theatres, which have staged a number of performances of the Inspector Drake plays.



The theatres, which have staged a number of performances of the Inspector Drake plays, are hoping to help propel the film towards the Hollywood red carpet.

Celebrating his 25th year, hapless hero Drake has acquired cult status since appearing in the first production of Inspector Drake's Last Case.

With four stage hits now under his belt features comical Drake has been with the case of duction, self-funded by
David and Stourbridge
actor Alan Birch who has
played the Inspector
from the start, has cost
the duo around £10,000.
Adding on the free contributions and months of
labour David said the
final sum would have
broken the £100,000
barrier – still a mere
trifle compared with
usual £150million Hollywood budget. The producer, from Highley, said:
"We wanted to do something really special to cel-

still going strong acce. Syears.

"It has been a very unusual and interesting experience and I am quietly hopeful that the film will take off and draw in the crowds.

#### **Fascinating**

"It is going to be fasci-nating to see what happens. I am truly amazed that Drake has been so successful, not only here but all over the world.

David who creates corporate videos for his deserves. porate videos for his deserves. filming company, also "You never know what named Flying Ducks, is will happen, it is just a

Getting the call - Inspector Drake and the butler (Gerry Hinks)

thing major and I believe that we definitely have the potential to take Hollywood by storm."

Tickets range from impressed that we potential to take Hollywood by storm."

Tickets range from impressed that me point and the potential to take Hollywood by storm.

Tickets range from impressed that me point and the potential to take Hollywood by storm.

"It is exciting to know that the film will also be seen so many miles away. Five always had a lot of support worldwide and I hope the production is as those the terre productions. The subtraction of all the effort everyone has put in."

David who creates corporate videos for his deserves.

"It would be fine fin ishing touches to the two-low feature.

He said: "Writing has atter of seeing what the critics say."

At amo of 50 actors and has a that a contributed and the film is those to be screened at more theatres and the production are independent cinemas through the year.

Impressed

Alan, of Wollaston, tourbridge, said: "We far hoping for a sell-out whe generosity of those whether the contributed. "I always knew that more theatres and the production are labour of love and it would be great if the yould be great if the production are labour of all the effort everyone has put in."

David who creates corporate videos for his deserves.



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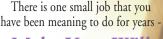


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### Manor owner's hopes despite delay on plan

### Pair having ball with music hall

COMEDY routines and songs from the golden age of British music hall will be per formed to raise cash for a Black Country hospice.
The event, called

The event, called Tararaboomdeay after the famous song, will be held at the Wilson Hall, in Colley Gate, Cradley, on Friday, January 28 at 7.30pm. It has been organised by staff at Stour-bridge's Mary Stevens Hospice and cash raised from the event will be donated to the

will be donated to the charity. Tickets are priced £8

Tickets are priced £8 and can be purchased from the hospice's fundraising office on 01384 377778. The show will feature comedy sketches and songs made famous by music hall acts such as Maria Llayd and Vesta Marie Lloyd and Vesta

Tilley.
Both acts were among the best-known performers of their day.
Fundraising administrator Sup Perison

Fundraising administrator Sue Davison said: "Not only is this an event to raise funds for the hospice it also celebrates more than 100 years of comedy and music. "It promises to be an excellent event and we are hoping around 160 people will attend. It is certainly something a little different and we hope people enjoy it."



Lisa Smith and Sue Downing prepare for the fun of the Tararaboomdeav show



Christopher Firmstone

THE owner of an 18th century ances tral home near Stourbridge said he

tral home near Stourbridge said he had been given new hope of saving his home, despite his plans being hit by a further delay.

A scheme to build 14 homes in the grounds of Wordsley Manor would raise £400,000 for renovations to the stately home. The Grade II listed building has been home to Christopher Firmstone's family for 160 years.

Mr Firmstone, aged 73, says parts of the house, off Meadowfields Close in Wordsley, are in a dilapidated state and the family could be forced to sell up due to the high cost of the works.

Developers Selbourne Homes have been embroiled in a row with conservation group Natural England over the future of wildlife on the site.

#### **Positive**

Dudley Council's development control committee last week agreed to defer the planning application for the new homes. The delay aims to give Selbourne Homes more time to draw up a suitable scheme to help protect slow worms and bats found at the site.

the site.

Mr Firmstonesaid he was "heartened" that the plan had not been rejected.

"I think that it is positive that they didn't dismiss the plan and I am hopeful that another strategy can be organised so as to overcome these difficulties," he said.

"I'm actually extremely heartened by the decision and hope these wildlife issues can be cleared un."

can be cleared up."

Natural England objected as it says the developers do not have a scheme to protect slow worms at the site.



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#### **Boss in** bid for a ship

A MIDLAND restaurant boss bidding for aircraft carrier HMS Invincible will have to wait weeks to find out if his bid is suc-

It is understood Lam Kin-Bong, owner of the Wing Wah chain, bid £5million for the historic 

being taunched Queen.
The Portsmouth-based ship, with a metal weight of 10,000 tons, was put into a state of "low level of readiness" until last year when it was put up for sale.

Spokeswoman Dorian Chan said the result of the bid would not be known for several weeks.

#### Boots on for a line dance

STOURBRIDGE resi

Ε

R WHIRLP

#### Free comedy night for carers



All set for Sing On are, from left, Jane Grainger, vice chair at Dudley Carers Forum and society performer; Dudley mayor Councillor Peter Miller and forum treasurer Wendy Hale

STOURBRIDGE residents are being encouraged to pull on their dancing boots and attend a new class starting next week.

Nigel Rider is kicking off line dancing lessons at St Michael's Church Centre on Maynard Avenue. Stourbridge, next Monday (January 24) at 7.30pm. He charges £3.20 for each 90-minute class.

He said: "Line dancing in great fun, excellent exercise and involves some really good music."

Call him on 01384

Brunn and society performer; Dudley may demond held and form froward to a fun night out thanks to an offer of free tickets to a comedy show.

Wordsley Amateur Dramatics Society has teamed up with Dudley load ones all over the borough and we are looking forward to treating lots of musical comedy Sing On. Tickets are to a neighbour ones all over the borough and we are looking forward to treating lots of musical comedy Sing On. Tickets are to a neighbour ones all over the borough and we are looking forward to treating lots of musical comedy Sing On. Tickets are to a neighbour ones all over the borough and we are looking forward to treating lots of musical comedy Sing On. Tickets are to a neighbour ones all over the borough and we are looking forward to treating lots of musical comedy Sing On. Tickets are to a neighbour ones all over the borough and we are looking forward to treating lots of musical comes of the forum. They will attend by the forward to a fund a fund of the time has the people who give unpaid support to are looking forward to treating lots of musical programme.

The forum organises monthly meet-able may are looking fun and to let their hair down though our busy social programme.

We know that there are many more were heard one beople who give unpaid support to a relative to a sea looking forward to treating lots of musically £7 (£6 concessions) but people who give unpaid support to a relative are forward Avenue. So of the forum Thread Avenue. So of the forum Thre

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### 'Fairytale' author in dream of film glory

A STOURBRIDGE author is dreaming of Hollywood after a member of a top producer's team showed an interest in adapting her debut

Novel.

Fairytale of New York by Miranda Dickinson, aged 37, shot straight into the Sunday Times Top 20 list just a week after it was launched and has sold

just a week after it was launched and has sold 106,000 copies to date.

Now a producer colleague of Jerry Bruckheimer, whose hits include The Rock, Top Gun and the Pirates of the Caribbean, said he would be interested in turning the tale into a movie.

Real life proved better than fiction for Miranda when she received a special Christmas present – a marriage proposal. Her story got its own happy-ever-after when her boyfriend, 33-year-old Jim White, proposed at Christmas. And she accepted.

He wrote 'Marry Me' on a gingerbread Christmas tree decoration before getting down on bended knee. The author, of Richardson Drive, Wollaston, was signed up by a

Richardson Drive, Wollaston, was signed up by a publishing firm when she posted her story on a website for unsigned authors after being made redundant from her job as a copywriter.

Miss Dickinson said the member of Mr Bruckheimer's team emailed her to say his wife 'loved' the book.

The movie-maker, who Miss Dickinson does not want to name at this stage, has recently worked on The Killers with Ashton Kutcher and has established his own production company.

Part of the cover of Miranda's debut novel Fairytale of New York – now a Hollywood film producer is interested in turning the romantic comedy

producer is interested in company. He told Miss Dickinson that turning the romantic comed. He told Miss Dickinson that centred around a British florist who buys a shop and loscovers a new life, into a film. The novel's plot centres



Literary dream - author Miranda Dickinson, aged 37

around female friends in New York who meet up in coffee shops to discuss their various lives and loves.

Rights

She passed the email on to her publishers Harper Collins, who will begin discussions eselling rights.

"It would be a dream corne." "It's come totally out of the love th

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#### thechronicle

### of libraries is planned

March – is one of the brains behind the opera-

She managed to recruit 24 members and staff from the David Lloyd Leisure Centre in Pensnett Road, Brierley Hill, to pose nude with modesty protected by strategically-placed gym equipment.

She started fundraising last year alongside sister-in-law Mia Hales, whose daughter Lauren, aged six, has cystic fibrosis.

"I'm so proud of every-one who took part," said mother-of-three Mrs Tittley, aged 35, of New Birmingham Road, Tivi-dale.

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dale.

The calendars – one featuring men, the other women – are now on sale in the centre and at local businesses.

### Mass merger Ferrets in runs for cricketers



Fundraising committee member Emma Pardoe with head coach Dave Banks and Caroline Hornberger of the Heart of England Ferret Association

and Caroline Hornberger of the lt STOURBRIDGE cricketers are holding a race night with a difference— featuring 28 ferrets.
The event at Stourbridge Cricket Club will raise cash for equipment for the club's youth section A track will be set up on tables, with tunnels and obstacles for the animals to tackle.
Punters will bet on the races and organiser Mark Ashbourne hopes to generate more than £1,000.

eart of England Ferret Association

He said: "We've been holding race mights for a few years where people bet on videos of horse races. This will be something completely different."

Mr Ashbourne, club grants and sponsorship officer, organised similar nights for the Walsall Society for the Blind about 15 years ago. The club hopes to find sponsors for the event on March 12 at the Memorial Ground, Amblecote. Call 07506 747619.

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# AMASS MERGER of all library services in the Black Country could save the region more than £1million a year, it has emerged. Council bosses from the four Black Country authorities will hold meetings over the coming months to discuss the potential for a single, centrally controlled library service. Initial estimates put potential savings at £300,000 a year per council. A feasibility study is already under way. Dare to bare at the gym GYM members in Dudley allowing for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Kelly Tittly – or Miss March – is one of the brains behind the operation.

#### **Proposal**

If agreed, the plan would come into action by 2013. A full proposal is expected by the end of March.

The news comes days after Walsall Council said it will close six of its 16 council-run libraries to save £1.3million. Discussions are also under way at Sandwell.

way at Sandwell.

In 2007 Dudley Council said it would close five libraries and replace them with four smaller "library links".

A report from the Society of Chief Librarians in November found that a West Midlandswide library service would not be feasible but commissioned a further review to examine the possibility of sharing back-office functions.



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#### thechronicle

#### Council services pledge

FRONTLINE services such as social care will be the last to suffer as a result of spending cuts, Black Country council leaders have vowed.

leaders have vowed.

Members assured a meeting of Dudley Council's cabinet on January 12 that upcoming budget cuts of £22million would come first and foremost from "service modernisation and improved efficiency".

Cabinet member for finance Councillor David Blood said: "We have said for some time that difficult decisions will have to be made. This budget report addresses those decisions."

### **Community order for** owner of dog in attack

owner has avoided jail after her pet "viciously" attacked a woman passing by with her children and left her needing surgery on deep wounds to her hands.

The large bull terrier-types dog escaped from Sarah Billingham's back garden and attacked Majma Bi, who was walking down the street outside with her young children.

Billingham, of Adelaide Street, Brierley Hill, had only tied the family pet up with a slopays £2,000 costs.

Magistrates Court heard on Wilkinson said: "It must have would have faced prison but for been absolutely terrifying for the preyon dear preyond convictions.

The dog will now be the street of the part of this poor woman and her children.

"Your dog viciously attacked her and I'm afraid there's the rand I'm afraid there's a law-abiding citizen with repreduction of the and of the street of this poor woman and her children.

"Your dog viciously attacked her and I'm afraid there's a law-abiding citizen with five dren.

"Status

Judge Wilkinson said: "It must have would have faced prison but for been absolutely terrifying for the preyod character".

Judge Wilkinson said: "You are a law-abiding citizen with the would not make her pay few and the there and I'm afraid there's a law-abiding citizen with the would not be aked then and I'm afraid there's a law-abiding citizen with the would not he back of the and I'm afraid there's a law abiding citizen with the would not be a law a law abiding citizen with the would not make her pay few and the children and attacked Majma Bi, who was walking down the street outside with her young children and attacked Majma Bi, who was walking down the street outside with her young children and attacked Majma Bi, who was walking down the street outside with her young children and attacked Majma Bi, who was walking down the street outside with her young children and attacked Majma Bi, who was walking down the street outside with her young children and attacked Majma Bi, who was a law been and I'm afraid there's But does the rand I'm afraid there's But down the would n

ABLACK COUNTRY dog piece of frayed rope, Dudley owner has avoided jail Magistrates Court heard on Wilkinson said: "It must have been absolutely terrifying for this poor woman and her chil-

To Gold Star

Package

Billingham was told she would have faced prison but for her "good character". Judge Wilkinson said: "You are a law-abiding citizen with

lor the personal after.
He said it had not been provoked or bred for fighting.
Billingham pleaded guilty to allowing her dog to be out of control in a public place and cause an injury.

### Cafe sizes up the giant jaffa



Rebecca Cervi with a giant jaffa cake at the Ruskin Glass Centre cafe

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### MOUTHS were watering at Stourbridge's Ruskin Glass Centre when cooks served up giant jaffa cakes. Customers were £1,000 damage cakes. Customers were treated to a taste of the plate-sized cakes in the cafe at the attraction in Amblecote. The chocolate creations were unveiled during the launch of the new menu at the cafe, which opened following the centre's £1.4million revamp last year. The giant jaffa cakes take four hours to make and are on sale for £2 a slice. The cafe, open seven days a week, will also run monthly themed nights for cuisine from around the world. from £50 theft

AROUND £1,000 of damage was caused at a recreation centre near Stourbridge by thieves targeting two cash boxes.

An electricity meter coin box and a gas meter coin box were forced open and £50 taken in the theft.

It happened at Bel-

four hours to make and are on sale for £2 a slice. The cafe, open seven days a week, will also run monthly themed nights for cuisine from around the world.

The first will be a French night on February 4. Tickets cost £20, to include a three-course meal plus a drink. Call 01384 399418.

LUCKY

Pc Ann O'Herlihy, of West Mercia Police, said was lucky the gas box had merely been forced open.

Police have conducted a pusc-to-house enquiries ripped it off the wall, it could have caused a gas leak.

The thieves forced their way in through a door at the centre serious," she said.





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#### thechronicle

COMPETITION

### **Countryside cure for** those winter blues

AFTER this harsh winter the ideal tonic would be a short break away at a lovely hotel in the countryside – and even better if it is free!

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#### **Extensive**

Extensive

All the hotel's light and airy en suite bedrooms have views over the hotel's extensive two-acre gardens and some look even further over the Axe Valley. All rooms have Freeview television, radio, telephone, hairdyrer and tea and coffee making facilities (with Devon fresh milk of course), soft white duvets and Egyptian cotton towels.

The Greenfields Brazzerie gives visitors the chance tenjoy the best of Devon and Dorset produce cooked by the hotel's award-winning chefs. Only local ingredients are used to ensure the utmost freshness and quality.

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Delightful setting of the Fairwater Head Hotel

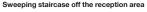
#### **HOW TO ENTER**

To win simply answer the following question What is the name of the brazzerie?

Send your answer to HOTEL COMPETITION, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date Thursday, January 27, 2011.

Usual rules apply, Editor's decision is final. Only one entry per household. The break is available until June 30 (subject to availability) and is for two adults or one adult and one child.







The spacious dining room

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#### COMPETITION

#### thechronicle



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### Kitchen in FOCUS with chance of a £500 prize

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improvements!

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new kitchen or bathroom, Focus DIY in Kingswinford features a great showroom accommodating an impressive range of kitchen and bathroom suites. What's more, FOCUS offers a comprehensive and complimentary planning and design service on all kitchens. A consultant can visit your home to take accurate measurements, listen to your ideas, suggest possible solutions and present you with a variety of styles and layouts using the latest computer aided design technology. Until January 30, 2011, FOCUS is offering all customers the chance to enjoy savings of up to 60 per cent on all new bathrooms and kitchens, all with free delivery.

To win simply answer the following question How many stores does FOCUS operate throughout England, Scotland and Wales?

Send your answer on a postcard to FOCUS COMPETITION, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, W/1 1ES. Closing date Thursday, January 27, 2011. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Only one entry per household.

### diy & gardening

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FOCUS operates more

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To be in with a chance of winning this great prize, simply answer the question in the 'How to enter' panel.

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### Classic fairytale on its way to the panto stage



Lara Mitchell, aged 14, from Church Hill, near Hagley, prepares for her role as the fairy in a production of Beauty and the Beast showing at the town hall

A LONG-RUNNING pantomime group is preparing to bring its version of classic fairytale Beauty and the Beast to the Black Country stage.

Pantomime Stourbridge Company will perform the show at the town hall, in Market Street, between January 22

Running It is the 44th show to be staged

by the pantomime group which has been running since October 1967 and has performed a pantomime every January since 1969. Spokeswoman for the company

Evening shows begin at 7.15pm except on January 23 when there is a 6.15pm start time.

There are also matinee shows at 2,15pm on January 22, 27 and 29 and at 1.15pm on January 23.

The control of the following forward to performing the pantomine.

"It is an excellent show which is ased on the traditional version rather than the animated Disney film." she said.

film," she said.
"A mixture of masks and makeup is used to create the Beast in the

Tickets are priced £12, or £7 with concessions, and are available by calling 01384 836963 or the box office on 01384 812959.

The King's Speech review – page 24

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE **ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S** 

TV VIEWING



DVD review - page 24

### **Brandreth shares the secrets** of stars and politicians

TELEVISION presenter Gyles Brandreth will be sharing the secrets of his life and career at the Palace Theatre, Red-

Brandreth was once a Conservative junior minister, wrote a biography of the Queen and Prince Phillip and was at Oxford with Bill

Clinton.

He takes his deliciously He takes his deliciously fruity vowels and actorly mien to the stage in One To One, a series of stories about his life and career with some jokes – and dreadful puns – thrown

Brandreth is a natural showman and raconteur; his fiery charisma and booming voice will take you through a career from wearing ques-tionable jumpers on Countdown to sharing insults about



the Royal Variety Show with the Duke of Edinburgh. They say all political careers end in tears. In Bran-

dreth's case it's tears of laughter as the actor, author, One Show reporter, former MP and government whip turns stand-up.

This is Brandreth unleashed on the stars he's known and the wicked ways of Westminster (no expenses spared).

Without hesitation or repetition, but with just a touch of deviation, the Just a Minute deviation, the Just a winute regular is poised to deliver a dazzling evening of wit, wordplay and name-dropping.
Tickets can be purchased for £16 at the Palace Theatre

box office in person, by tele-phone on 01527 65203 or online from the theatre's website.

For further information visit the theatre's website
www.redditchpalacetheatre.c
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### Audience to revel in Chess masterpiece

HERE'S more to Craig Revel Horwood than judging dancers on Strictly Come

The director has won acclaim for his flamboyant touring revival of 80s West End musical Chess, a collaboration between Tim Rice and Abba's Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson.

Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson.
The show, featuring former Wicked performer Shona White, was a hit in Wolverhampton last year and returns to the West Midlands for a run at Birmingham Hippodrome from February 7 to 12.
The show, about the duel between rival Russian and American chess grandmasters, features such songs as One Night In Bangkok, Pity The Child and the classic I Know Him So Well.
Tickets are priced from £13.50 to £37.50, available online at www.birming-hamhippo drome.com or by calling 0844 338 5000.



Shona White takes centre stage in Craig Revel Craig Revel Horwood's revival of Chess, which is returning to the West Midlands with a run at Birmingham Hippodrome

#### From Cornish shanties **Cantankerous Tom** will soften your heart to Definite Diva songs

WARTIME weepy Goodnight Mister Tom is being brought to the stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next month.

Grand Theatre next month.

The play is an adaptation Michelle Magorian's hugely popular children's novel about how a young London evacuee with a sad secret forges a friendship with his cantankerous old host, the titular Mister Tom, in a rural community.

Playing Mister Tom, a role associated with the late John Thaw from a popular TV film version, is Royal Shakespeare

Company actor Oliver Ford Davies, who will be familiar to fans of the blockbuster Star Wars movies as Sio Bibble in The Phantom Menace, Attack of the Clones and Revenge of the

the Clones and Hevenge or tre Sith.
Goodnight Mister Tom is staged at the Grand nightly from February 8 to 12 with matiness on the Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.
Tickets are priced from £6.50 to £25.50. Contact the box office on 01902 429212 or at www.grandtheatre.co.uk

CORNISH harmonies as smooth as clotted cream will be heard at Birmingham Town Hall on Tuesday, January 25, When Port Isaac's Fisherman's Friends will be in concert with songs and sea shantles from the North Cornwall fishing village (tickets £17.50).

Other forthcoming musical highlights in the city include on Thursday, January 27, a lunctime recital by Ji Liu, winner of the Brant Plano Competition, performing Bach's Goldhern Variations (Town Hall,

petition, performing Bach's Goldberg Variations (Town Hall,

£7.50; on the same day, just over an hour later at 2.15pm, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra bring spring to the city early with a performance of Beethoven and Schumann's Spring Symphonies (Symphony Hall, £9.50-£35).

On January 28, the CBSO present showbiz and pop favourites at the hall with Definitive Divas – Mary Carewe, Grainne Renihan and Emer McParland. Tickets cost £9.50 to £39.50. Call 0121 780 3333 or visit www.thsh.co.uk

#### COMPETITION



### Music memories are just the ticket

DIRECT from the USA and celebrating 50 years of number one Motown hits, the Magic of Motown tribute concert show is heading for Wolverhampton. It is due to book into the Grand Theatre on Saturday, February 5 and the Chronicles have teamed up with the promoters to offer eight readers the chance to win free tickets and extras. The prize will consist of a pair of tickets, DVD, CD and programme for the 5pmperformance. The ticket price is £19.50 and there is a later performance at 8pm (£21.50). The record label that brought the likes of the Temptations, Diana Ross and the Supremes, the Four Tops, Stevie Wonder, the Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye, Lionel Richie, Martha Reeves, Smokey Robinson, Mary Wells and the Isley Brothers to the world enjoyed its first number one hit in 1961. Please Mr Postman by the Marvelettes was followed by a phenomenal 56 other Billboard chart toppers. To enter answer this simple question:

In which American city was the Motown label based?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and davlime hope number to. Motown

wouven tabel based?
Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and daytime phone number to: Motown Competition, Chronicles (Editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: January 27.

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Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. There is no cash alternative. To buy tickets contact the box office: 01902 429212 http://www.grandtheatre.info



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West End shows. The price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast and free time in London on the Sunday. Choose your pick-up point from Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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### Tears and laughter in Colin's crowning glory

THE KING'S SPEECH (12A)
The British are coming!"
famously declared screenwriter Colin Welland in 1982 when he collected his Oscar for Chariots Of Fire.

Nearly 30 years later, his prophecy seems to be coming true. Slumdog Millionaire was the toast of Tinseltown in 2008, garnering almost every trophy in sight, and now The King's Speech is poised to do the same, and win Colin Firth. well-deserved Academy Award into the

gam. ast year, the British actor was cruelly denied a golden statuette for his revelatory performance as a suicidal gay lecturer in Tom Ford's directorial debut, A Single Man.

Tom Ford's directorial debut, A Single Man. This year, he should definitely practise his self-deprecating acceptance speech for this heartrending portrayal of King George VI in Tom Hooper's majestic comedy drama. On Sunday he picked up the Golden Globe for best actor in the awards given by Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which are seen as a good indicator for the Oscars. Firth is matched laugh for laugh by Geof-

frey Rush in imperious form, and the cream of homegrown acting talent provides illustri-ous support, including Timothy Spall as Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill.

The King's Speech is an impeccably crafted chapter from recent British history that charts a remarkable and unlikely friend-

ship between two men from opposite sides of the class divide.

When King George V (Michael Gambon) dies in 1936, eldest son Edward (Guy Pearce) ascends to the throne, but his reign chould be controlled to the c

Pearce) ascends to the throne, but his reign is shrouded in scandal as he continues to romance American divorcee, Wallis Simpson (Eve Best).

Love triumphs over duty and Edward abdicates, forcing youngest son Alber (Firth) into the spotlight.

However, the newly crowned King George VI suffers from a crippling stammer, which renders him unable to deliver public addresses.

addresses. With war imminent and the country looking to its King for leadership, Queen Elizabeth (Helana Bonham Carter) approaches unconventional Australianborn speech therapist Lionel Logue (Rush) on the recommendation of a friend.

both unconventional and controversial Those are two of my favourite words," smiles Elizabeth, persuading Lionel to help her husband overcome his fears.

The King's Speech is a crowd-pleasing. The King's Speech is a crowd-pleasing, heart-tugging gem, seen through the eyes of a man who is frightened to say a word for fear of what might – or might not – come out. David Seidler's script elegantly dissects the relationship between monarch and com-

moner, creating memorable exchanges that provide the film with huge laughs and a

provide the film with huge laughs and a strong emotional heartbeat.

Firth delivers the performance of his life, battling valiantly against his condition, while

batting valiantly against his condition, will Rush is hysterical as the linguist who refuses any concessions to his king.
"My castle, my rules," he maintains.
Their double-act is glorious, including an unforgettable barrage of expletives in the name of therapy.
"Do you know the f word?" asks Lionel.
"Efformication?" renlies Albert nerv-

"F...f... fornication?" replies Albert nerv

The finale is guaranteed to have audi ences cheering and sobbing with joy.

### Old Celtic magic brings horror into 21st century

outcast - cert 18 utcast is a wannabe horror film which draws on ancient Celtic tradition and is set among the modern landscape of a bleak

high rise estate somewhere in Edinburgh.
The plot centres around a mysterious mother and son who move into one of the flats and are on the run from a deadly pursuer Cathal, played by a bearded James Nesbitt.

James Nesbitt.

Using an ancient form of magic to keep themselves hidden from their hunter, Irish travellers Marpy played by Kate Dickle and her teenage son, Fergal – Niall Bruton, wind up in the dingy flat. It seems their only neighbour is a family which includes the streetwise and pretty Petronella, a Scottish/Romany girl played by Hanna Stanbridge who befriends Fergal and finds him an oasis in



the tangle of her life coping with her retarded brother and alcoholic mother.

Mary is extremely protective of her son and for good reason for they hide a secret which when unleashed leaves a trail of dead bodies. She is dedicated to keeping her son out of the clutches of Cathal but now has the added complication of keeping him away from any romantic entanglement with Petronella.

Cathal using his own style of dark magic to hunt his quarry creates panic for Mary and her son as she discovers he is closing in



ruton as Fergal with Hanna Stanbridge Petronella.

Left Cathal. James Nesbitt, ancient ritual to hunt his

dark concrete landscape just

dark concrete landscape just waiting to be attacked. You have to give it to director Colm McCarthy he does create a menacing arena with his shots of the bleak urban surroundings in which the characters dwell. However, Nesbitt is never fully convincing as the brooding hunter protected by the ancient symbols tattooed into his flesh as he goes on his quest.

he goes on his quest. He even comes over as a little incompetent as the one thing he is told about leaving a trail he forgets almost immediately.

Outcast doesn't really have the

Outcast doesn't really have the jump factor as a horror film and never really builds the tension high enough to keep you on the edge of your seat.

Outcast out on DVD now.

Danny Farragher

Problems

Using her own blood and protective symbols around their new home Mary uses all her witch-like powers to keep prying eyes away and to avoid the inevitable showdown with their Van Helsing-style hunter.

One of the problems with this film is it never seems sure of what it is, it's not gory enough and takes itself too seriously to be a slasher movie.

It isn't really scary enough to be a full-blown horror film and doesn't really have enough special effects to be a sci-fi movie.

There are, as you can imagine, the set pieces of the minor characters wondering around the



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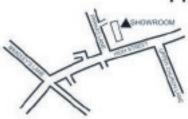
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### KINGS OF LEON

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Kings of Leon have announced details of a series of huge headline outdoor shows next Summer including an eagerly anticipated gig in Coventry,

Their highly acclaimed fifth album 'Come Around Sundown' became their third consecutive album to debut at number 1 when it topped the UK album charts on release, claiming both the biggest week one sales of the year and the biggest ever first week digital sales along the way.

Like last year's Hyde Park show, their forth-coming December 2010 arena shows sold out in seconds and the Kings of Leon's Summer 2011 concerts are set to be one of the highlights of next year's live calendar.



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#### thechronicle

### **Benefits advice** is under threat

DUDLEY'S dedicated onestop benefits advice service may be forced to close its doors in a bid to save the cash-strapped council hundreds of thousands of pounds a year.

The Benefits Shop is under threat as the authority strug-gles to shave £22million from

next year's budget.

The plans came to light at a meeting of Dudley Council's

cabinet on January 12. Labour's Shaukat Ali told the meeting he had heard a "rumour" about the closure, and asked the Tory leadership whether it was true.
"That is a big shock, and very worrying," he said.
"We are talking about the regeneration of Dudley, and to lose this would mean a large number of staff relocated or made redundant." The Benefits Shop, situated in

The Benefits Shop, situated in the former court building in Priory Street, provides free

fits, which benefits people are entitled to, and offers help in appealing any decisions from the Department for Work and Pen-

Councillor David Blood, cabinet member for finance, confirmed that the Benefits Shop would lose £150,000 in the coming financial year, rising to £300,000 in the third year of cuts, the 2013/14 financial year.

However, he added, the authority was considering ploughing £100,000 a year of that

x100,000 a year of that money into redesignat-ing the service to be pro-vided by Citizens' Advice Bureau, Dudley Council Plus, or other suitable organisations.

ganisations.
"The Benefits Shop is a discretionary service," he said. "Further discus-sions regarding this func-tion of the council will be ongoing.

After the meeting, Councillor Ali said he was saddened to hear the office was likely to close – and vowed to dig out any other "hidden" cuts not highlighted in the budget

#### Confusing

"From the answer I got, it certainly sounded like it was going to happen," he said.

happen," he said.
"It will be a great loss, and will make the system more confusing for people claiming there.
"As the opposition, we will be going through the budget proposals and trying to dig out things like this, which are not mentioned in the outline statements published."
The budget will go before full council in March.

#### Posts are cut at fittings company

MORE THAN 60 jobs have been axed at a Black Country interior fittings firm after the company was put into administration.

Halesowen-based CPL Interiors has laid off all 61 members of staff after a number of contracts fell through.

The directors, who pre The directors, who previously boasted an annual turnover of £21.5million, placed the business in the hands of administrators KJ Watkin & Co of Walsall on December 20.

Staff are thought to have been made redun-dant the following day.

#### **Alternative**

The firm, which had expanded into the London fit-out market, is understood to have run into problems on a contract for the London School of Economics which is now looking for other which contractive contractive contractive. alternative contractors

Managing director David Lawrence told an David Lawrence told an industry publication: "Why would you close a business down that you've invested 17 years of your life in, unless you had to?"

"Purely and simply we got taken by some very bad contracts in London

bad contracts in London that wiped us out."

CPL head office was at the Mucklow Office Park, with other bases in Birmingham and London.

It has four major departments, specialising in fittings and refurbishments for both building and motor interiors, new-build projects and furniture.

#### Vote adds up to a new name



Students Callum Gutteridge, Lauren Johal and Tyla Bryant-Lewis with food HUNGRY high school students have a new range of brain food on offer with the launch of their school's revamped dining hall.

dining hall.

Scotty G's canteen – named and
voted for by students – is now open for
business at Holly Hall Maths and
Computing College in Scotts Green
Close, Dudley, offering pupils a wider
variety of lunchtime food than ever

Johal and Tyla Bryant-Lewis with food before. The new menu includes dishes such as home-made ocean pie, sweet and sour chicken and cheese flan. Headteacher Graham Lloyd said the £1.75 meal deal and wraps had been particularly popular. Pupils at the school now have the chance to design the face behind the name. Winning artist will get an iPod Shuffle, with a £10 WH Smith voucher.

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### # Home of Property



There is a range of wall and base units and integrated appliances in the kitchen

### **Bungalow** is set in a quiet cul-de-sac

FORMING part of a small collection of detached bungalows within a culde-sac is this deceptive detached in Wall Heath.

Number 1 Maidens-bridge Drive is on the market for offers in the region of £189,950 with Taylors estate

the region of £189,950 with Taylors estate agent and comes with no upward chain. Internally, the accommodation is attractively presented and includes two good bedrooms. Access is via a reception hall which measures 14ft 4in by 6ft 6in, entered through a uPVC door, with a built-in cloak cupboard. The lounge includes a double-glazed patio window with views to the rear garden, flame-effect gas fire with surround, radiator, two wall light points and measures 14ft 4in by 11ft 4in. With a range of light

With a range of light oak style cupboards in the kitchen, dimensions here are 14ft 5in by 8ft and incorporate an inte-grated electric hob and oven and fridge freezer.

#### **Plumbing**

There is also a uPVC double-glazed window overlooking the rear garden, sink drainer unit with mixer tap and plumbing for a washing machine, a door to the rear garden and a builtin pantry.

The first bedroom is to the front and measures.

in pantry.

The first bedroom is to the front and measures 11f by 11f tim. It incorporates fitted wardrobes and matching bedside cabinets, wall cupboards and further double wardrobes.

Also to the front is the second bedroom with dimensions of 11f 3in by 10ft 11in.

The bathroom incorporates a suite and full height tiling. There is also a separate WC.

The bungalow is set back beyond the low maintenance front with asphalt driveway and a shared side driveway to the garage.

The garden includes a paved patio a rea. Contact the agent on 01384 401777 to view.



This detached bungalow comes with no upward chain and an attractive interior



Landscaped gardens surround the home, stocked with a wide range of plants



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£460 pc



**BRIERLEY HILL** FOXDALE DRIVE

Cluster style house. Lounge bathroom with shower. Unfurnished, Double glazing, front garden, allocated parking.

£450 pcm



#### DADFORD VIEW

Cluster style property. Lounge, kitchen, bathroom with shower, two bedrooms front garden, allocation parking. Carpets and curtains. Unfurnished.

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LICKEY ROAD

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Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas
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Lounge, Kitcher
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Front & Rear G



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Ground floor ap Lounge, kitche bedroom, batt Unfurnished. E Heating, Allocater Carpets & cur

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### TOWN & COUNTR

#### PROPERTY SERVICES

#### MOSS GROVE, KINGSWINFORD



A well presented 3 bedroom semi-detatched property situated in a popular
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and Garage. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: YES
PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
DSS: NO

#### SCOTTS ROAD, STOURBRIDGE



An extremely well pre-sented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential lo-cation. Accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, ounge, kitchen/diner, three pedrooms. family bathroom bedrooms, family bathroom and garage. The property further benefits from off road parking, gas central heating and rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOK-ERS:NO PETS:NO

#### WYCHBURY ROAD, WOLLESCOTE, STOURBRIDGE



bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The propand bathroom. The property further benefits from off road parking, enclosed rear garden and gas central heating. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

A well presented three bedroom semi detached

#### REDHOLME COURT, REDHILL



An Unfurnished two bedroom first floor apartment located within walking distance of Stourbridge Town Centre. Ac-commodation to comprise of: Entrance door with security Entrance door with security code, private entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen with cooker,bathroom, two bedrooms and ample storage cupboards. The property further benefits from night storage heating, communal gardens and single garage. UNF-URNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£475 PCM

#### TWO GATES, COLLEY GATE, HALESOWEN



A well presented spacious three double bedroom end terrace property situated in a popular residential location propular residential location with the second propular residential location or the second propular second propular second propular second property in the second pro

£450 PCM



£2500 PCM



#### HOLENDENE WAY, WOMBOURNE

property further benefits from gas central he double glazing. UNFURNISHED, Available: 3SS: NO; CHILDREN: YES; PETS: SMOKERS: NO £1100 PCM



#### IBIS GARDENS, KINGSWINFORD

An extremely well presented four bedroom betached property in this much sought after esidential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, wc, lounge, dining oom, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play oom. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom. JINFURNISHED DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES FETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:YES FETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£795 PCM



#### LYNWOOD AVENUE, WALL HEATH

aditional semi detached bungalow which enjoys nly sought afterposition within this prestigiou ress, offering an exeptionally spacious and ver proportined layout of accommodation which i by this delightful setting including ay to the fore together with a we garden.

DSS: No Children: Yes Pets: N

£595PCM



#### CHURCH ROAD, HALESOWEN

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached properly situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, two bedrooms, bathroom and cellar. The properly further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, rear garden art front driveway. Unfurnished CHILDRENTYES: SMOKERS.NO PETSINO £560PCM



#### HOLBOURNE HOUSE, SEDGLEY

A very well presented two bedroom apartment in a newly developed block. Accomodation comprises lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bath/shower room. There is secure parking to the rear of the property.

Unfurnished. CHILDREN: No. PETS: No. DSS: No. SMOKERS: No. CSSCNOW.

£550pcm



#### THE EMBANKMENT, MERRY HILL, BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented two bedroom apartment located closely to all ameneties of the Merry Hill Centre. Accomodation comprise of entrance hall, fully fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. Part Furnished: 1 Double bed / Wardrobe / Dining table and 4 chairs / Fridge and freezer. DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550 PCM



#### THE QUARTER, CLARENCE STREET, UPPER GORNAL

Extremely well presented two begroom race property situated in a popula sidential location. The accommodation movies of lounge, kitchen, two bedroom residential location. The accommod comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bed and bathroom. The property further be from gas central heating and double gl Unfurnished DSS:YES PET CHILDREN:YES SMOKERDATE. onefits ouble glazing. PETS:NO OKERS:NO CM

£525 PCM



#### WALTERS ROW, DUDLEY

ential location. Accommodation comprises (tichen, lounge, Two bedrooms and com. The property further benefits from entral heating, double glazing and off road ng. UNFURNISHED DSS:YES:MMY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES KERS:YES

£525 PCM



#### WALTERS ROW

YES

£525 PCM



#### ST GEORGES ROAD, NORTON, STOURBRIDGE

£495 PCM



#### ALBERT STREET, LYE

A two bedroom period terrace property is popular residential location, to comprise two reception rooms, fitted kitchen nallway, lobby and bathroom. The property also benefits from a rear garder property also benefits from a rear yarden Currently being re-furbished UNFURNISHED DSS NO CHILDREN YES PETS NO SMOKERS NO £495 PCM



£495 PCM



#### TOYS LANE, COLLEY GATE, HALESOWEN

reakfast room, kitchen, three bedroom.

In the property further benefits fror il heating, double glazing, off roa mall rear court yard. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS: NO £495 PCM



#### HIGHFIELD ROAD, COLLEY GATE

a popular residential loca buble Bedrooms. The property further om GCH, double glazing, rear garden paved fore garden. DSS No les Pets: No Smokers: No £495 PCM



#### ST GEORGES ROAD, NETHERTON

SMOKERS:YES £375 PCM



#### ALLSOPPS CLOSE. ROWLEY REGIS

ery well presented two bedroom one in a popular residential loc further benefits from having fore garden laid to lawn and enclosed rear garden with patic area. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No DSS:No SMOKERS: No £495 PCM



#### LIDDIARD COURT BELFRY DRIVE WOLLASTON



#### SCOTTS ROAD STOURBRIDGE

rom double glazing, electric heating ted parking. V IEWING ESSENTIAL CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:N

£425 PCM



#### LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE



£385PCM



#### BRIDGNORTH ROAD, WOLLASTON

one bedroom first floor apartment with commodation to comprise of lounge, ted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. te property benefits from double glazing de electric heating. UNFURNISHED A one ...
accommodation.
fitted kitchen, bathroom ...
The property benefits from doand electric heating. UNFL
PSS:NO CHILDREN:NO DSS:NU C. SMOKERS:NO £375 PCM



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#### MAMBLE ROAD, STOURBRIDGE

A very well presented Ground Floor Flat in a popular residential location. Accomodation comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom and Bathroom.

and Bathroom.
UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: NO.
PETS: NO. SMOKERS:NO DSS: NO.
£350 PCM





Three good-sized betroeres is seed of some improvementi

upgrading \* Double glucing whose specified

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£108,500

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one bedroom upvs double glazing to vindovs electric howling communal car paing area

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Living room with electric fire Kitches with oven, hot & haod

Bathroom DG windows & Night stongs

Monthly rent of £385

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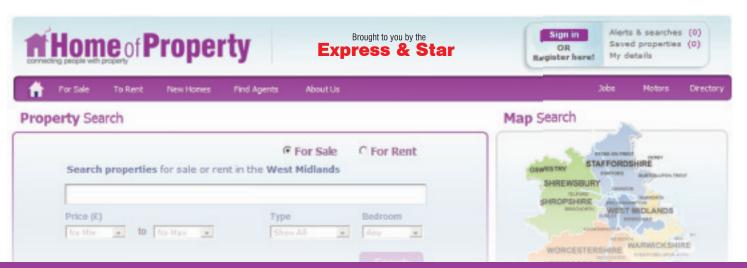
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#### **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi ECOFLEX**

ROAD TEST

### Astra ups its game and takes top s

ecember saw Vauxhall's Astra return to the top spot as the UK's test elling car for the month. In its decades-old battle with the Ford Focus and previously the Ford Escort, the Astra has often come out on top.

The battle has been played out across a number of scenarios from the Astra GTE versus Escort RS Turbo conflict of the late 1980s to the soft tops of the mid nineties, but in these more austere times the contest is not to be the fastest or most glamorous, but to be the most frugal.

As might be expected where these two vehicles are concerned, the efficiency specialist line-ups are similar, with both Yauxhall and Ford offering stop-start and non-stop-start equipped versions of their economical family hatchbacks.

The non-stop-start versions have a

The non-stop-start versions have a cheaper initial purchase price but lose out, albeit marginally, in terms of fuel economy and emissions.

With the Astra, this is less of an issue than With the Astra, this is less of an issue than with the Focus because, whereas the addition of stop-start drops the 1.6-litre diesel Focus Econetic from 104g/km to 99g/km CO2 emissions and thus from tax band B to free of charge A, the Vauxhall drops from 109g/km to 104g/km, remaining in tax band B.

B.

The Astra loses that battle, then, but not necessarily the war, as it works hard to make up for the initial shortcomings elsewhere. The biggest thorn in Ford's side comes in the form of the Astra's interior.

The Focus' upmarket, high quality interior



Ride quality is very good in the Astra



The Astra's cabin is of higher quality

The Astra's cabin is of higher quality has been a large part of its 'class-leading' appeal, but the current generation of Astra has upped its game in this regard.

There's a high quality ambience in the cabin, giving the Astra a mini-Insignia feel. Material quality is very good and plastics are soft to the touch but sturdy. In the Exclusiv model, soft lighting beneath the gear lever surround and in the door handle moulds is a premium touch and the chunky, sturdy feel to the steering wheel is replicated around the interior, in the metal rimmed knobs and the solid column stalks.

The Astra holds its own against its closest rival from the outside, too. Like the Focus



The Astra Ecoflex is the green version of the long-lived model, with good economy

The Astra Ecoflex is the green version of the the Astra boasts a contemporary design that's attractive but refined and sensible.

The Ecoflex model needn't suffer visually for its greener emphasis, either, 17-inch alloy wheels are optional, to replace the flush-covered steels as standard. The revised aero package does little to harm the Astra's attractive exterior lines and the automatic aero-flap behind the grille is discreetly hidden. A particularly keen eye may even spot the marginally lowered suspension, which reduces drag alongside the low-rolling resistance tyres.

However, the major changes, although still hidden from view, are more noticeable.

he long-lived model, with good economy

The taller gearing, for example, which comes courtesy of a longer final drive ratio, affecting all five-forward gears. The positive side is that high speed and long distance cruises are more refined thanks to lower rpm. This works well with the Astra's impressive ride quality, even on the revised suspension.

It does result in less inspiring straight line performance than some eco rivals, however. Using a smaller capacity diesel engine seems like an obvious way to reduce fuel consumption and works very well around town, but when greater acceleration is required the 1.3-litre unit does need to be pushed harder and kept above 2,500rpm for any real per-

formance. This means the engine remains audible in the cabin, too, particularly when

formance. This means the engine remains audible in the cabin, too, particularly when cold.

A lower idling speed counters this slightly in the standard Ecoflex model, but not as much as the zero-idling philosophy of the stop-start equipped model.

On the move, the Astra can hold its head high. Ride quality is very good – of benefit to driver and passengers – and the chassis is responsive but predictable and secure. ESP is part of a respectable list of standard equipment (although electric rear windows are omitted for weight saving), an important factor for a family car.

Similarly, an accommodating interior boosts the family appeal. Boot space behind the hatch is conveniently proportioned with a bigger opening than initially appears from the outside. The rear bench will accept two adults with little fuss, too, with good access offered by the five-door layout.

The on-paper figures suggest that the Astra hasn't quite trumped the Focus in the battle to be greenest, but the stylish and noticeably well-built model is impressive enough to keep the contest alive for the foreseeable future.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Model: Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Ecoflex Exclusiv, £18,005 on the road. Engine: 1.3-litre turbocharged petrol unit developing 95bhp and 140bl/ft of torque. Transmission: Five-speed manual transmission, driving the front wheels. Performance: Maximum speed 109mph, 0-62mph 13.8 seconds. CO2 emissions: 138g/km. Economy; 68,9mpg.

Test by RICHARD H HAMMOND

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60	Lancer 1.8	GS2 4dr	Thunder Blue	000	£17,139	£13,695	£3444	BG07EPA	FIAT PUNTO	Diesel Sporting	Blue	14800	£7495	£6795	£700
60	Lancer 2.0	Diesel GS2 5dr	Orient Red	000	£17,494	£13,994	£3500	BV58DDF	FIESTA	ZETEC 3dr	Silver	14480	£7495	£6495	£1000
60	Lancer 2.0	Ralli-Art 5dr	Black	000	£23,339	£19,995	£3344	PO56ZRP	NISSAN	NAVARA ADVEN	Black	47916	Just In	£12.912+ vat	21000
DVE07/ID	0-H 0 D-		EMONSTRATORS	F000	07.005	05.005	00 000	AF58GCZ	ASTRA	SRi 3DR 1.9 TDi	Black	15000	£12.495	,	£1000
DV59ZVR DV59ZVP	Colt 3 Dr Colt 5 Dr	1.1 CZI MANUAL	PORCELAIN WHITE	5000 4000	£7,995								112,490	£11,495	£1000
DY10XTB	Lancer 4 Dr	CZ2 1.3 CLEAR T LANCER 1.8 GS3	Blue ORIENT RED	2500	£9,495 £12,997	£7,995 £12,495	£1,500 £502	BN59 LMO		107 URBAN 998cc	Primrose Yellow	1500		£5,994	
DITONID	Lalicti 4 Di		UBISHI USED STOCK	77.	112,997	112,490	2002	BT08WZH		ELITE	Beige	14153	£8,495	£7,995	£500
DY10XTA	Lancer 5 Dr	LANCER 1.8 GS2 SP	COOL SILVER	2000	£12475	£11,995	£480	BD08SNF	Agila	AGILA DESIGN AUTO	Red	14004	£7,495	£6,995	£500
DY10SYJ	Colt 3 Dr	1.3 CZ2	Spicy Red	DEL MLS	£8,995	£8,495	£500	BP07CE0	207	1.4 SPORT 87 3DOOR	Orange	17477	£6,995	£5,995	£1,000
DY108Y0	Colt 3 Dr	1.3 CZ2	Spicy Red	DEL MLS	£8,995	£8,495	£500	FE59VVC	Ibiza	S A/C 1.2 3 DOOR	Red	9000	£8,995	£7,995	£1,000
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DY60TZA	Lancer 5 Dr	2.0 DI-D GS 2	GREY	DEL MLS	£17,399	£13,995	£3,404						,		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
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#### HRONICLE MOTORING



### **Sports boost** for BMW





The suspension is lowered by another 10mm

The BMW M3's purposeful-looking interior

The optional Competition Package cleverly enhances BMW's already potent M3 sports saloon in all the right places

ESPITE BMW's latest M3 boasting a muscular V8 engine and a considerable 420 horsepower, some fans of the high performance coupe wanted more; more control, more driver involvement.

More of a precision instrument than the similar size but distinctly hooliganesque C63 AMG from Mercedes, the M3 offers the enthusiastic driver a versatile and accomplished experience.

a very good car.

From the original, trend-setting E30 to the present day, the evolutionary process has been a steady one. The application of more power, more performance and more useful technology has seen the M3 be transformed from race track special to supercarspecial to supercar-baiting all-rounder.

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Silver, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys ..... 04 BMW 316ES Black, PAS, EW, AC,



Suspension can be fine-tuned electronically

the inclusion of some for the Electronic rather attractive-looking Damper control system complete the changes. So what about the

devised the Competition key is turned. Package.

Don't worry, there isn't a roll cage or cut off switch in sight – it's not electronics. Enhance-that kind of competition bundle.

With suspension lowered by 10mm and inclusion of a Sport mode

....£3499

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....£3299

...£3799

baiting all-rounder.

In a bid to ensure drivers felt more at one with their M3, BMW purposeful even before a devised the Competition Package.

Don't worry, there isn't a roll cage or cut off its attention to the car's such in sight – it's not electronics.

Tather attractive-room in the particular M3 looks more particular M3 looks more with their M3, BMW purposeful even before a key is turned.

Mechanical changes complete the changes.

So what about the ractical experience? In a nutshell the car is good – wery good. The V8 motor is and always has been a gem. It sounds fantastic when pushed hard, and the particular M3 looks more with their M3, BMW purposeful even before a ractical experience? In a look what about the ractical experience? In a look what about the reverge odd. The V8 motor is and always has been a gem. It sounds fantastic when pushed hard, and the particular M3 looks more a look what about the ractical experience? In a look what about the car is good – wery good. The V8 motor is and always has been a gem. It sounds fantastic when pushed hard, and the look when the look wh gem. It sounds fantastic when pushed hard; barking its way through the gears like a mini-me Nascar racer. A criminally infectious experience if you value your driving licence.

At a more intellectual At a more intellectual level, the presence of the Competition Package add-ons subtly raise the enjoyment level by allowing you to further fine tune the car's electronic helpers and go that bit harder and faster.

You get the best of both worlds in so much as the car can assume the role of tame pussy cat for the

car can assume the role of tame pussy cat for the schlep to work. Fiddle with the electronics and you're suddenly at the helm of a borderline rack special. Everything – sights, sounds, sensa-tions – shift up a notch or two.

thons—sime up a nocen or two.

The current M3 has always been an accessible car in terms of its performance, and the addition of the Competition Package only serves to enhance its appeal. After a few miles of press on motoring you could even say that the handful of changes do much to unlock the car's underlying potential. ing potential.

#### **Sharpens**

With the ability to fine tune the suspension and stability control settings, seriously keen drivers can now delve that bit deeper into the M3's

On the road the car's lower stance might

On the road the car's lower stance might appear modest but this feature and the switch to standard fit 19-inch wheels noticeably sharpens up responses.

At higher speed on, say a track, you fully understand the car's true potential; the retuned electronics work tirelessly in the background to help and enhance the experience, leaving the M3's vocal V8 motor to take centre stage.

Those same critics will no doubt be quick to complain about the perceived increased focus on electronic aids in what is sup-

phain about the perceived increased focus on elec-tronic aids in what is sup-posed to be a driver's car, but once behind the wheel you'll soon dis-cover that you're still very much in control.

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56 Rea	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 S Silver. A/C, Alloys, CD, 5 - door, FSH	£5295	£32
55 Req	VOLKSWAGON PASSAT 1.9 SE TDI Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£6495	£38
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BT51NYC Vauxhall Corsa 3Dr HAT 1.2 Comfort	Green	£2,995	£2,695	£300	£71.10	DY57VFZ	SEAT Altea 5Dr 1.9 TDI S	Blue	£8,995	£7,995	£1,000	£202.28
BX05PVE MG ZR+ 1.8 3dr 120	Grey	£3,995	£3,495	£500	£90.90	VU58OUP	Suzuki SX4 GLX 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£8,995	£8,295	£700	£209.70
PEO5BYU Kia Picanto Lx 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£3,995	£3,495	£500	£90.90	VX08VFT	Ford Fiesta 2.0 ST 150bhp	Blue	£8,995	£8,295	£700	£209.70
LBO6CNJ Kia Rio GS 5 Door Hatchback	Silver	£4,495	£3,795	£700	£98.33	KY08AWC	C SEAT Ibiza FR TDI 3 Door Hatch	Grey	£9,495	£8,495	£1,000	£214.65
VK55VUX Ford Sportka Se 3 Door	Silver	£4,495	£3,895	£600	£100.80	VX10EZL	Splash 5Dr EST 1.0 GLS	Charcoal Black	£8,995	£8,495		£214.65
'							SEAT Ibiza 5Dr HAT 1.4 Sport	Red	£9,495	£8,695	£800	£219.60
VN06SHJ Kia Magentis Ls V6 Auto	Silver	£4,495	£3,995	£500	£103.28		Suzuki Grand Vitara 16 Auto	Black	£8,995	£8,795		£222.08
BD08LCJ Chevrolet matiz 1.0 se a/c	Super Red	£4,695	£3,995	£700	£103.28		Kia Ceed 5Dr HAT 1.6 Sr-7 AU N	Black	£9,795	£8,995	£800	£227.03
BL52HGY Peugeot 206 Convertible	Silver	£4,995	£3,995	£1,000	£103.28		Subaru Impreza RX 5 Door Hatch	Blue	£9,995	£8,995		£227.03
VF55LUW Kia Rio LX CRDI 5 Door Hatch	Blue	£4,995	£4,495	£500	£115.65		I SEAT Ibiza Sport 84 3 Door	Black	£9,695	£8,995		£227.03
DN07BBK Suzuki Wagon R + GL 5 Door	Brilliant Silver	£5,295	£4,495	£800	£115.65		Kia Ceed 5Dr HAT 1.6 Crdi LS Kia Cee'd LS CRDI 5 Door Hatch	Blue Silver	£9,495	£8,995 £8,995		£227.03 £227.03
BLO6LWO Renault Megane Maxim 5 Door	Silver	£5,495	£4,995	£500	£128.03		Kia Cee'd LS CRDI 5 Door Hatch	Black	£10,495 £10,495		•	£227.03 £227.03
SG05UDX Vauxhall Astra Club Twinport	Silver	£5,995	£4,995	£1,000	£128.03		Kia Cee'd LS CRDI 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£10,495	•	•	£227.03
VK08YZM Kia Picanto 5Dr HAT 1.0	Black	£5,195	£4,995	£200	£128.03		SEAT Leon Stylance 5 Door	Red	£10,473	•		£227.03 £239.40
BK57WXM Nissan Micra Sport 5 Door	Silver	£5,695	£4,995	£700	£128.03		SEAT Ibiza 1.6 sport 5 door	Red	£9,995	£9,495	, ,	£239.40
BK08PZV Ford Ka Zetec Climate	Black	£5,495	£4,995	£500	£128.03	VK10LBU	Ibiza 1.2 S A/C NEW	Ruby Red	£9,995	£9,695		£244.35
VU58XTC Kia Picanto Chill 5 Door Hatch	Clear White	£5,995	£5,495	£500	£140.40	VK10UXU	,	Black Magic	£9,995	£9,695		£244.35
VU58XUJ Kia Picanto 1.1 chill	Galaxy Black	£5,995	£5,495		£140.40	LC09UEO	Kia Soul 2 CRDI 5 Door Hatch	Black	£9,995	£9,795		£246.83
VX55WOU Nissan Micra Essenza C+C Conv	Red	£5,995	£5,495	£500	£140.40	E009VLB	Ford Fiestat Titanium 120	Blue	£10,499	£9,995	£504	£251.78
M10NRH Mazda MX-5 1.81 Convertible	Silver	£6,495	£5,795	£700	£140.40	VX59BFF	Hyundai 130 Comfort Crdi	Black	£10,495	£9,995	£500	£251.78
			,			IJ06YGX	Saab 9-3 Aero 210 BHP Convert	Black	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
BT52ZGK Mini Mini Cooper 3 Door Hatch	Blue	£5,995	£5,795	£200	£147.83	VO03TKF	Merecedes E320 CDI Advantgarde	Silver	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
BF09KDX Kia Picanto 5Dr HAT 1.1 RED	Red	£6,395	£5,995	£400	£152.78	OY08VHD	seat leon referance	Red	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
AJ06UVA Volkswagen Golf S 5 Door Hatch	Black	£6,995	£5,995		£152.78	VX10EZU	Swift 3Dr HAT 1.3 SZ3	Kashmir Blue	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
BD56HGC Suzuki Swift VVTS GLX 5 Door	Blue	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78	VN60LCU	Ibiza SC Sport 1.4	Luna Grey	£10,495	£10,295	£200	£259.20
VO08LDA Kia Picanto Ice Auto	Black	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78	VX10EYU	Swift 5Dr HAT 1.5 SZ4 Auto	Cosmic Black	£10,995	£10,495	£500	£264.15
BJ08VAK Skoda Fabia 1 Htp 70 5 Door	Blue	£6,695	£5,995	£700	£152.78		SEAT Leon Stylance 5 Door	Grey	£11,495	,		£276.53
VK08ZBE Kia Rio 5Dr HAT 1.42	Sapphire Blue	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78	FE59BOU		Grey	£12,495	•		£283.95
VO08NYP Toyota Aygo Platinum Vvtl 3 dr	Silver	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78	VN60LCT	Ibiza Sport 1.4 Sport 5Dr	Galia Blue	£11,495	•		£283.95
VO57URP Kia Cee'd GS CRDI 5 Door hatch	Abyss Blue	£6,995	£6,295	£700	£160.20	KT08AHJ	Saab 9-3 Vector Sport TID Auto	Black	£11,995			£288.90
VK06TWE Suzuki Jimney VVTS Convertible	Blue	£6,495	£6,295	£200	£160.20	VA57UPK	· ·	Blue	£12,595	•		£293.85
VK07JKN Kia Cee'd 1.6 GS Auto	Red	£6,995	£6,495	£500	£165.15	YR57FVZ	SEAT Leon 2.0fsi t cupra 5dr	Grey		£11,695		£293.85
VN08LGX Seat Ibiza 1.4 sport (100PS)	Emocion Red	£6,995	£6,495	£500	£165.15		J Audi A3 Se Tdi 5 Door Hatch Audi A4 TDI 140 Convertible	Grey Black	£12,495 £13,995	,		£301.28 £313.65
VX10EYY Alto 5Dr HAT 1.0 SZ3	Azure Grey Perl	£6,995	£6,695	£300	£170.10		SEAT Altea S Emocion TDI MPV	Silver	,	£12,995	•	£315.03 £326.03
VX10EYV Alto 5Dr HAT 1.0 SZ3	Paradise Blue	£7,995	£6,995		£177.53		Kia Soul Burner Crdi	Black	,	£12,995	•	£326.03
	White				£177.53		) Kia Sorento CRDI XS 5 Door	Ice Blue/Pewter		£13,795		£345.83
ů		£7,995		£1,000			SEAT Exeo Sport CR TDI 141	Grey		£13,995		£350.78
VEO8TZK SEAT Ibiza Sportrider 3 Door	Emocion Red	£7,995		£1,000	£177.53		Kia Sorento XT Auto 5 Door	Silver	,	£14,795	•	£370.58
VK57UTP Kia Cee'd LD CRDI SW Estate	Blue	£8,999		£1,704	£184.95		SEAT Exeo SE CR TDI Estate	Red		£14,995		£375.53
VK08YZS Kia Ceed 1.6 SR 5dr	Monsoon Blue	£7,995	£7,295		£184.95		) Suzuki Grand Vitara DDIS Estate	Grey		£15,795		£395.33
FL56HVN SEAT Altea 5Dr 1.9 TDI Reference	Blue	£7,495	£7,295	£200	£184.95	DN09CM	OSEAT Leon 5Dr HAT 2.0 TSI Cupra	Orange	£16,995	£16,295	£700	£407.70
KM07KBE SEAT Altea XL Stylance TDI 105	Black	£7,995	£7,495	£500	£189.90	VO59NRK	Sportage 5Dr EST 2.0 Crdi Titan	Phantom Black	£16,495	£16,295	£200	£407.70
VO58SSZ Dodge Caliber 2.0 5 Door Hatch	Blue	£8,495	£7,495	£1,000	£189.90	YG09JYL	SEAT Leon Cupra TSI 5 Door	Blue	£17,995	£16,995	£1,000	£425.03
VN58VDD Swift 3Dr HAT 1.6 VVT SPT	White	£7,995	£7,795	£200	£197.33	VX10EZS	Grand Vitara 5Dr 1.9 DDiS SZ5	EverGreen	£19,995	£18,995	£1,000	£474.53

Typical Finance Example Vehicle: MG ZR Hatchback 1.8 120 + 3dr (2004-2005) Cash price of vehicle £3,495.00 Deposit £349.50 Amount of Credit £3,145.50 Credit facility fee £160.00 Completion Fee £150.00 Interest £1,055.30 Total charge for credit £1,365.30 Interest rate (fixed for the duration of the agreement) 8.00% Representativ 20.00% APR The credit and the charge for credit is repayable by 47 monthly payments of £90.85 1 final payment of £240.85 Total amount payable £4,860.30 Duration of the agreement 48 months

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### **Updated Ninja** gets green light

aving suspended the public launch of the much anticipated 2011 Ninja ZX-10R to investigate a technical issue Kawasaki bar ner issue, Kawasaki has now revealed the cause of concern and the counter-measure to solve the issue. It had been discovered that

when some examples of the new 2011 Ninja ZX-10R were operated at high rpm under unique riding conditions —

such as operating on a race-track — the intake valve springs could surge.

Should this rare incidence occur it could cause one or more intake valves to seat improperly, resulting in poor engine perform-

Having examined the very Having examined the very small number of machines which exhibited this surge phenomenon, the Kawasaki factory engineers have designed and tested a countermeasure which solves the problem without affecting any facet of the new engine's outstanding performance.

#### Powerful

Powerful

On the limited number of machines produced so far, the camshaft, valve springs and spring retainers for intake valves are being replaced to prevent the valve spring from surging.

The same design update is automatically being incorporated into the ongoing production run of the newest and most powerful Ninja yet produced.

Kawasaki sales and marketing manager Michael Johnstone congratulated the Kawasaki Heavy Industries engineers for their work in advance of the anticipated start of sales in late January.

January.
"While we have been thinking

Fitted

*Erom Only* 



Kawasaki can now launch its stunning Ninja ZX-10R superbike

about Christmas and the New Year at this festive time, a team of engineers in Japan have been exhaustively testing new high performance components for the stunning new Ninja ZX-10R.

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with the dealer launch of this and other incoming range models on January 27 across the UK, this news is the best possible start to 2011 for Kawasaki dealers and riders." With the dealer launch of this and

#### Suzuki extends its offer

SUZUKI has extended its VAT free offer on Alto SZ3 and SZ4 models until the end of March.

The deal offers a saving of up to £1,422 oper cent — helping customers take advantage of an easier way to buy a new car for the new year. Suzuki has also introduced low rate PCP (Personal Contract Purchase) schemes, with low deposits, on Alto and Swift models.

An Alto SZ3 is available for a deposit of £149 (two per cent) followed by 36 monthly payments of £149 with the option to pay a final balloon' payment of £2,742.



The cheap-to-run Alto is now available VAT free until the end of March thanks to Suzuki's latest offe

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, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 2008 Page

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# Sport

### Single goal condemns Yeltz to defeat

HALESOWEN TOWN remain rooted firmly in the Zamaretto Premier relegation zone after a narrow defeat in a game of few chances spoilt by the Hemel Hempstead 1 and Danny May's through ball as the home side went in search of their first league for more than two Early on, Hemel's Jake Gilbert grazed the post and Jeff Hammond was denied by visiting goalkeeper Simon Flower from when Hammond headed his debut home goal into an empty wide and an appeal that Hemel stranded from a long ball. Wide and an appeal that Hemel with goalkeeper Flower left stranded from a long ball. Wide and an appeal that Hemel with goalkeeper Flower left stranded from a long ball. Wide and an appeal that Hemel with goalkeeper Flower left stranded from a long ball. Wide and an appeal that Hemel with goalkeeper Hichael McEntergart bright wide and an appeal that Hemel with goalkeeper Hichael McEntergart bright wide and an appeal that Hemel with goalkeeper Hichael McEntergart bright wide and an appeal that Hemel with goalkeeper Hichael McEntergart bright wide and an appeal that Hemel with goalkeeper Hichael McEntergart bright wide and an appeal that Hemel with goalkeeper Hichael with goalkeeper Hichael with goalkeeper Flower left stranded from a long ball.

Mach of the provided from a long ball with the value of the with goalkeeper Flower left stranded from a long ball.

With the Yeltz almost drew level there minutes later when Mark more stranded from a long ball.

With the Yeltz almost drew level with goalkeeper Flower left wit

### **SAXONS FAIL TO** TAKE CHANCES

WHARFEDALE claimed the double over a misfiring Saxons side at Stourton Park.

MCHone homes in on goal Saxons side at Stourton Park.

But it would have been the home side celebrating had they managed to convert some of their first half pressure into points. Stourbridge skipper Ben Hughes handed them the early start with a try after just six minutes, the visitors responding with a Tom Barrett penalty 10 minutes later, writes David Lawrence.



### Lawrence may make surprise return on road

PROP Andi Lawrence could make a surprise return for Stourbridge Saxons when they head to Cornwall for their National One match at Cornwall for their National One match at Stourbridge chief bounded out. There is so little in these games that decisions like that can head left Stourton Park in the summer to play in France but has decided to return to the Black Country and bolster Neil. The Saxons have lost their opening two games of 2011, the second a 30-15 home loss to Wharfedale that saw prop Will Davis have what looked a good try chalked off by the referee.

Mitchell admits that saw in the same of 2011, the second a 30-15 home loss to Wharfedale that saw prop Will Davis have what looked a good try chalked off by the referee.

Mitchell admits that the confidence of players. "Tim Pickard had a try cisallowed at their place with submitted in the same referee up there," the Sourbridge chief pointed out. There is so little in these games that decisions like that can confidence of players. "Tim Pickard had a try cisallowed at their place with the sourbridge chief pointed out. There is so little in these games that decisions like that can confidence of players. "Tim Pickard had a try disallowed at their place with the sourbridge chief pointed out. There is so it. The add the second to the pointed out. There is so it. The tan often turn into a confidence of players. "Tim Pickard had at try disallowed at their place with the sourbridge chief pointed out. There is so it. The new second out. There is so it. The new second to the pointed out. There is so it. The new second to the pointed out. There is so it. The new second to the pointed out. There is so it. The new second to the pointed out. There is so it. The new second to the pointed out. There is so it. The new second to the pointed out. There is so it. The new second to the pointed out. There is so it. The same referee up there," the submited by the latter in the same referee up there," the sourbridge chief spointed out. There is so it. The new second to the pointed

But from then on the Saxons dominated the saxons dominated the proceedings only to find some stubborn defending from the Yorkshire side blocking their way.

Prop Will Davis had

blocking their way.
Prop Will Davis had
what appeared to be a
legitimate try chalked off
by referee John Meredith
and the visitors had
second row Talite Vaioleti sent to the sin bin,
the official losing
patience after one too
many penalty offences in
front of their own line.
But there was still no
way through and Stourbridge paid the price as
Wharfedale bagged a
penalty and brace of tries
tate in the half.
Vaioleti set up the first
with a powerful run
through midfield before
releasing winger Simon
Horsfall who dotted
down between the posts.
There was further
misery for the Stourton
Park supporters as they
then saw back row Dan
Solomi driven over.

#### Revival

Barrett converted both tries to hand the Greens a 20-5 lead at the end of a half that had seen them on the back foot for the majority of it.

### to Insure a Cup victory



Paul McHone successfully negotiates the penalty area traffic to head in the first Stourbridge goal STOURBRIDGE made

#### Back home Glassboys stun City

With the wind at their backs in the second period, hopes were high for a Saxons revival and they edged closer to their target when James Rodley was driven over on 53 minutes.

But that momentum again came to nothing when winger Simon Frewin was shown a red card for stamping and off.

through to the last eight of the Red Insure Cup on Tuesday but were taken to the wire by the Central Division visitors.

the Central Division visitors.
Stourbridge made most of the running in the opening 45 minutes to open up a two-goal cushion but Daventry hit back in the second period.

Stourbridge 3 Cambridge City 0
STOURBRIDGE produced a
rip-roaring display to
condemn Cambridge City to
only their third league defeat
of the season on Saturday.
Playing at the War Memorial
Ground for the first time in five
weeks, Gary Hackett's men took
the game to the visitors from the
egg and the season on Saturday.
As the home side continued to
press, they went ahead in the 16th
minute.
A low drive from Linden Dovey

sagain came to nothing when winger Simon Frewin was shown a red card for stamping and the Yorkshire outfit took full advantage.

Number eight Rob Baldwin dived over from the back of a scrum for a third Wharfedale try on the back of a scrum for a third Wharfedale try on the hour with winger James Druce claiming a fourth when he skipped in on the overlap three minutes later.

Centre Tom Jarvis dived in at the corner for a third try late on.
But the visitors never looked like relinquishing their lead.

But the visitors never in the skipped sin on the overlap three in the skipped sin on the overlap thre

it Stourbridge 2 Daventry Town 1

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Daventry then began to come more into the game and twice went close towards half-time. In the 40th minute Rob Foster played the ball to Martin Hutchcox who found Tom Berwick for a shot that Solly managed to push away.

Three minutes later a Daventry free-kick was only half-cleared and Aaron Parkinson hit a dipping shot that came back off the crossbar.

On the stroke of half-time, though, another flowing Stourbridge move brought reward for the home side. Josh Craddock threaded the ball into the run of Dyson who pulled back a low crossback the right-hand byline for Dovey, whose shot had just enough on it to beat Kemp.

The Glassboys could have put the result beyond doubt soon after the re-start. Dovey bore down on goal and rolled the ball past Kemp only for Josh Blake to clear off the line.

Instead Daventry reduces as Berwick

### First reversal in seven for Hawks

Boys League
CS Colts 1 Halas Hawks West 0
HALAS under-nines West fell to their first defeat in seven games, losing to a well organised Colts side.
Joshua Wyman, Harry Williams and Sam Bulmer all went close but with five minutes remaining Halas failed to clear a floated cross and were punished by a neat finish. Even then they went close through a goalmouth scramble but could not find the net.
Halas Hawks East 1 Wordsley North 2
Rickio Fairin-Hall put the under-10s into the lead with a fine strike. But Wordsley equalised from the kick-off with a splendid solo goal.
After half-time both teams seemed to cancel

kick-off with a splendid solo gr
After half-time both teams seemed to cancel each other out but Wordsley scored again with what proved to be the winner. Farim-Hall and Louie Jones shared the Hawk's 'player of the match award.

Wombourne 1

Mohamed Yafai scored the under-11s' goal in their daw with Wombourne 1

The under-11s' goal in their daw with Wombourne.

West Hagley South 1

Halas Hawks West 1

The under-12 West side continued its good vister to 2011 with a hard earned point against

West Hagley.

The home side went canned and early on but Halas equalised before the Abreak through their goal their goal the product of the Modgers.

Halas Hawks 1

Brierley Hill East 4 Halas Hawks /
Santiago Colts 1
The under-12 girls
created numerous
chances but had only two
goals to show for them by
half-time with Abigail
Gennard and Amy
Plimmer converting.
But goals flowed in the
second half through
Plimmer (2), Bethan
Bryan and Luey and
Sophie Heaselgrave.
Wordsley Wasps 0
Halas Hawks 4
The under-15 girls
started very strongly but
could not find the net
until the 20th minute.
A fine ball across the
goalmouth saw player of
the match Chloe Biddleston, score from a very
tight angle.
Halas added a second a
few minutes later from
Rhianne Murray.
In the second half
Wordsley threatened
only to be repelled by
keeper Livi Woollams
and the match was
wrapped up with Liz
McAleenan and Laurer
Ladies
Halas Hawks 4

gers. Halas Hawks 1

Brierley Hill East 4 A 10-man under-13s team took on high flyers Brierley Hill and impressed despite trail-ing 2-1 at the interval. The Halas lads battled

superbly but conceded two second-half goals. Jack Guest was their

### scorer. Halas Hawks 4

Halas Hawks 4

Wombourne 0

The under-14s maintained their winning form by sticking to a passing game despite difficult conditions. Goals arrived from Jake Walley (2), Louis Ezewele and Dan Willetts.

Duncan Edwards 1

Halas Hawks 12

Despite only fielding 10 men, the under-15s had a big win in which goalkeeper James Andrews scored a hattrick and took player of the match!

Other scorers were Lewis Hatfield (4), Rhys Edwards (2), Jamie Sichell (4), Rhys Edwards (4), Rhys E

Halas Hawks 7
Brierley Hill 2
The under-16s had a comfortable win over Brierley Hill Bullets with goals coming from man of the match, Tom Stevens (3), Scott Pope (2), Guy Millward and Alex Chappell.

Halas Hawks 4
Kewford Eagles 1
Halas retained their league topping spot despite falling behind early on.
Kewford, with the advantage of wind and slope, could have gone further shead but for two excellent saves by Gemma Scriven.
Gemma College equalised from a corner and in the second half the home side took control, going on to win the match 4-1 with a brace from Katy Monk and a longrange, left-foot shot from College.

The Stourbridge

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